

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 05907 130217Z

15

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SUBJ: 59TH RESUMED ECOSOC: CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

REF: USUN 5713 AND 5715

1. THIS ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY THE ECOSOC SECRETARY, MR. CORDOVEZ, WHO INTRODUCED THE DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN USUN 5713 AND 5715. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA THEN INTRODUCED ON BEHALF OF SOME FIFTEEN LDC CO-SPONSORS A DECISION ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT TO HOLD THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AT LIMA MARCH 1-12, 1976. MYERSON INTERVENED WITH A STATEMENT REPEAT BELOW CONCERNING THE OVERCROWDED CALENDAR OF ECONOMIC CONFERENCES AND THE NUMBER OF SUCH CONFERENCES BEING HELD AWAY FROM UN HEADQUARTERS. THE UGANDAN REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE EVEN MORE MEETINGS OF UN ECONOMIC FORUMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVENED ON THE QUESTION OF THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES BUT ONLY AFTER THE RESOLUTION HAS PASSED BY CONSENSUS. MR. STURKEY OF AUSTRALIA, WHO PRESENTLY CHAIRS THE WEO SECOND COMMITTEE LEVEL GROUP, DELIVERED A PREPARED STATEMENT ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY TO THE PROBLEM OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE 60TH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 05907 130217Z

ECOSOC SESSION AND UNCTAD IV. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ECOSOC

SESSION SHOULD BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO SOCIAL AFFAIRS ITEMS, THAT THE FEW ECONOMIC ITEMS ON THE AGENDA BE TAKEN UP AT THE 61ST SESSION. HE SAID THAT A DECISION ON THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION IN JANUARY, 1976, OF THE ECOSOC. IN THE INTERIM, THE SITUATION AND THE PRESENT DEBATE IN ECOSOC SHOULD BE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD SOON BE DISCUSSING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES. ITALY, ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9, DEPLORED OVERLAPPING OF ECONOMIC FORA CONFERENCES BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO CORRECT THE SITUATION. THE UK, IN A STATEMENT GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE USG, DESCRIBED MEETINGS AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS AS GENERALLY LESS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT. HE SAID THAT IT WAS IRONIC THAT WHILE THE GA IS DISCUSSING RESTRUCTURING, WE ONCE AGAIN FACE THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY CONFERENCES. HE SAID THAT PERHAPS A SOLUTION WOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON NEW CONFERENCES. HE SUPPORTED THE AUSTRALIAN VIEW ON THE CONFLICT OF ECOSOC AND UNCTAD IV. NORWAY ALSO SUPPORTED THE AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTION. THE FRG AND FRANCE SUGGESTED THAT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE SHOULD BE APPRISED OF THE SITUATION BUT THOUGHT THAT THE SECRETARIAT AND THE ECOSOC ITSELF SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON THE ISSUE.

3. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN SUPPORTED THE AUSTRALIAN VIEW, SUGGESTING THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF CONFLICTS IN THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES PRIOR TO THE JANUARY ECOSOC SESSION.

4. FINALLY, OUTGOING ECOSOC PRESIDENT AKHUND (PAKISTAN) DECIDED THAT THE VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN THE DEBATE ON THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

QUOTE

MR PRESIDENT:

I WOULD WITH YOUR PERMISSION LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 05907 130217Z

ENTIRE SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR. MY DELEGATION WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU FOR ITS KIND INVITATION. AND WE CAN SEE ADVANTAGES TO SUCH A MEETING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

AS REGARDS THE ALGERIAN STATEMENT, WHILE THE UNITED STATES WILL RALLY TO THE GENERAL VIEW AND DESIRE ON THIS MATTER, WE WONDER WHETHER MARCH OF NEXT YEAR IS THE MOST PROPITIOUS

TIME FOR SUCH A MEETING FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EITHER THE WORK OF THE TRANSNATIONAL COMMISSION ITSELF OR FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE OVER-ALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.

FIRST, WITH REGARD TO THE TRANSNATIONAL COMMISSION, THIS WILL BE ITS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING. THERE ARE SEVERAL COMPELLING REASONS IN OUR VIEW WHY THE COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE THIS FIRST WORKING SESSION AT ITS PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. THESE INCLUDE SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS READY AVAILABILITY OF ALL PERSONNEL, THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING MR. SAHLGREN AND HIS STAFF -- WHICH IS STILL BEING RECRUITED -- THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THEIR OPERATIONS INTO GEAR WITHOUT THE ADDED BURDEN THAT IS INEVITABLE IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF A MAJOR CONFERENCE AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS. THERE ARE OTHER PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DELEGATIONS, CERTAINLY MY OWN, WHICH I NEED NOT DWELL ON AT THE MOMENT.

IN MY DELEGATION'S VIEW, THE ISSUE BECOMES EVEN MORE COMPLEX WHEN SEEN IN RELATION TO THE WORK SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF MOST -- IF NOT ALL -- OF OUR DELEGATIONS DURING THE FIRST SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS OF 1976. THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL MAY HAVE ONE OR BOTH OF ITS SESSIONS AWAY FROM NEW YORK; THE UNITED STATES WILL RETURN TO THIS ISSUE AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT. WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL IMPORTANT MEETINGS AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN ENVISAGED FOR A LONG TIME. NATURALLY, WE ARE NOT QUESTIONING THESE IN ANY WAY. WE ARE ONLY TRYING TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL PICTURE. THESE INCLUDE PARTICULARLY THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN NAIROBI, UNCTAD IV IN NAIROBI, AND HABITAT IN VANCOUVER. WE ADD TO THESE TWO SESSIONS OF THIS BODY, ONE IN NEW YORK IN APRIL, AND ONE IN GENEVA IN JULY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 05907 130217Z

AS IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TO WORK INTENSIVELY FOR THE FIRST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR IF IT IS TO CARRY OUT THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED ON IT AS A RESULT OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION.

MR. PRESIDENT, I REALIZE THAT ECOSOC IS NOT SOVEREIGN WITH RESPECT TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCES FOR NEXT YEAR. THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED AN OPINION OR TWO. AND WE CERTAINLY SHALL WISH TO CONSIDER THIS BODY'S OPINION. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THUS FAR NO ONE SEEMS TO BE IN A POSITION TO LOOK AT THE OVER-ALL PICTURE AND BALANCE THE PRIORITIES IN A RATIONAL MANNER. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING SHOULD,

WE BELIEVE, LOOK INTO THIS SITUATION WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING
THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS THAT ARE HELD IN A GIVEN YEAR.
IN ANY CASE, I HOPE THAT -- INsofar AS IT HAS JURISDICTION --
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WILL AVOID ADDING TO THE
BURDENS WE FACE WITH REGARD TO NUMBERS OF MEETINGS AND
TRAVEL AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS.

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